

Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Special Session, Monday, May 24, 2004, 8:00 a.m.

Agreements/Contracts

Contract with Catawba County and Catawba County Board of Education for appropriations and expenditures for constructing an addition onto the remodeling of St. Stephens High School in the amount of \$2.9 million 557 05/24/04

Budget

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Schools

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, May 24, 2004, 8:00 a.m., at the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina. The purpose of the special meeting was for budget hearings for County departments and outside agencies.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barbara, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, Assistant County Manager Joellen J. Daley, and Budget Manager Judy V. Ikerd.

1. Chairman Barnes called the special meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. She welcomed everyone and said the purpose of the special meeting was for budget hearings for County departments and outside agencies.
2. Budget hearings:
 - a. The following persons gave budget reports and made comments or additional requests on County Manager J. Thomas Lundy's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005:

Catawba Valley Medical Center - Tony Rose
Catawba Valley Community College - Dr. Cuylar Dunbar
Catawba County Schools - Dr. Ann Hart

1. Contract with Catawba County and Catawba County Board of Education for appropriations and expenditures for constructing an addition onto the remodeling of St. Stephens High School in the amount of \$2.9 million. (Copy of contract on file in the Office of Finance Director, Contract Number 17-04-0443.)

Dr. Ann Hart said Catawba County Schools is attempting to sell the real estate which houses the former St. Stephens Elementary School property and Catawba County Schools intends to reimburse the County out of the proceeds from the sale of said real estate.

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve a contract with the Catawba County Board of Education for appropriations and expenditures for constructing an addition onto the remodeling of St. Stephens High School in the amount of \$2.9 million. The motion carried unanimously.

Newton-Conover Schools - Dr. Will Crawford

1. Letter of Commitment with Newton-Conover City Schools.

Dr. Crawford presented the following Letter of Commitment:

"The Adrian L. Shuford, Jr., Estate has offered Newton-Conover City Schools first right of refusal on an 4.358 acre tract located between Shuford Elementary and the new exit road from Interstate 40 which leads to Rock Barn. Our Board is excited about this option because the purchase of this land would give us the opportunity to create a bus parking lot and expand the staff and visitor parking.

Our original projection for capital funds needed to meet our growth needs and to improve our facilities in 1999 included some slight modification to take care of traffic concerns at Shuford. Since that time, the new Highway 16 has been constructed and is open. The completion of a new driveway into Shuford that will be connected to Hunsucker Drive will provide a thruway between Rock Barn Road and the new Highway 16.

Currently we park our buses on what will be a thruway and they have visitor parking on this thruway. The acquisition of this land will give us the needed space to create a safe bus and visitor parking area on the school side of the new Hunsucker Drive thruway.

As you can see, the addition of the access driveway to the new Highway 16 is a plus for emergency services and for parents and others having access to the school, but this change will present some rather interesting adjustment in terms of safety and parking. This offer is a timely blessing.

On behalf of the Board, we are formally requesting that you help us obtain this tract of land and to develop a bus and visitor parking area on this site. The asking price of the land is \$86,595. Of course, we will do our best to negotiate a better price. The projected cost of developing a bus and visitor parking area is \$170,000. We are requesting \$256,595 to make these modifications for the safety of our students, staff, and parents.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

/s/ _____
Dr. William R. Crawford
Superintendent"

Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the aforementioned Letter of Commitment with Newton-Conover City Schools. The motion carried unanimously.

Hickory City Schools - Dr. Duane Kirkman
Economic Development Corporation - Scott Millar
Council for the Arts - Kathy Greathouse
Historical Association - Sydney Halma
Repay - Sally Poteat
Patrick Beaver Memorial Library -Corki Jones

Other Agencies
Lake Norman Marine Commission - Randy Reece
Convention and Visitors Bureau - Millie Barbee
Newton-Conover Auditorium Authority - Rob Miller

Conflict Resolution Center - Tammy Wilcox
Western Piedmont Council of Governments - Doug Taylor
Emergency Services - David Weldon
Administration
Rescue Squads
Fire Districts

At 12:00 noon, Chair Barnes called for a lunch break.

At 1:00 p.m., Chair Barnes called the meeting back to order.

Sheriff - David Huffman
Utilities and Engineering - Barry Edwards
Administration
Solid Waste
Water and Sewer Reserve Fund
Water and Sewer Construction Fund
Tax Office - Randy Moose
Administration
Reappraisal
Soil and Water - Larry Williams
Forestry - David Wright
Board of Elections - Larry Brewer
Register of Deeds - Ruth Mackie
Mental Health - John Hardy

1. Mental Health Budget Revision.

Mental Health Director John Hardy said the Mental Health Board requested that the Board of Commissioners approve a revision to increase the current Mental Health budget by \$171,458 bringing it to \$17,821,815.

Reconciliation of the Comprehensive Treatment Services Program (CTSP) and Mental Retardation/Mental Illness (MR/MI) fund balance has occurred. The Tentative Settlement Report (TSR) for State Fiscal Year 2002 was utilized to determine the settlement amount. Guidelines were developed by the State and Community Programs to determine the process in which the funds would be reconciled. As a result of the settlement, Catawba County Mental Health Area Program was required to settle their CTSP and MR/MI budgets for SFY 2002 by refunding to the Division the amount of \$171,458. The refund is due no later than May 28, 2004. Funds had already been set aside as a restricted fund balance anticipating the settlement, the refund will be paid from these restricted funds within the Mental Health Fund Balance.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Account Number		Account Number	
Expenditures:		Revenues:	
110-530901-991300 MH Refund	171,458	110-530901-690101 MH Fund Balance	171,458

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the aforementioned supplemental appropriations. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance - Rodney Miller
Administration
Facilities

1. Jail Expansion Project.

On March 31, 2004, the Board of Commissioners was given an update on the Jail Expansion Project by the Jail Expansion Committee. At that meeting, reference was made to the existence of a natural gas pipeline that currently runs through the middle of the proposed site.

Representatives from Piedmont Natural Gas tell County staff that this work needs to be done this summer, due to the low demand for natural gas. The Board of Commissioners is requested to appropriate funds in the amount of \$225,000 for the relocation of a natural gas pipeline in conjunction with the Newton Jail Expansion Project. Those funds will be reimbursed to the County with proceeds from Certificates of Participation in February/March 2005.

Newton Jail	410-460100-986000-12002	\$225,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	410-460100-690100	\$225,000

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the aforementioned appropriation of funds. The motion carried unanimously.

Planning - Jacky Eubanks
Technology - Mick Berry
Administration
Communications Center
E-911 Fund
Wireless 911 Fund
Public Health - Barry Blick
Social Services - Bobby Boyd
Cooperative Extension - Fred Miller
Library - Karen Foss
Personnel - Debbie Bradley
County Manager - Tom Lundy
Board of Commissioners
Legal
Budget

3. Adjournment.

At 5:02 p.m., there being no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is a special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2004, 7:00 p.m., 1924 Courthouse, for the FY 2004-05 budget public hearing.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

J. Thomas Lundy
County Manager/Deputy Clerk